

REMARKS

Claims 30-36 are currently pending in the application, with claim 30 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 30 has been amended. In addition, Claims 34-36 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 30-36, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 30-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

The Applicants have amended claim 30 in a manner believed to overcome Examiner's objection. In particular, claim 30 was amended to include the recitation "a plurality of apertures". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant's have canceled Claims 34-36 without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Rejection of Claims 18-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 30 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,728,244 to Nanataki et al. (hereinafter "Nanataki").

It is respectfully submitted that the recitations of amended claim 30 is patentable over Nanataki. For example, Nanataki does not disclose or suggest the recited "in which at least

some of said horizontal apertures in said second sintered greensheet connect said plurality of vertical apertures in said first sintered greensheet with said plurality of vertical apertures in said third sintered greensheet" of claim 30.

Accordingly, claim 30 is believed to be patentable over Nanataki. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to this claim is respectfully requested and allowance of this claim is earnestly solicited.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,527,890 to Briscoe.

Claims 34-36 have been canceled without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 30-33 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,

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